

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 173 AND CHESTERFIELD 118



By John Hoffmann

April 12, 2015

ELECTION RESULTS: Tiffany wins but Mary loses. It may be harder to force any intelligent legislation with only one reform candidate winning in the two contested races in Town and County.

Ward 2 **Tiffany Frautschi** beat Alderman Tim Welby's handpicked replacement candidate **Tim Walsh** by 59% of the vote, 311-212. The attack letter written by Welby sent out by Walsh a week before the election likely backfired.



Walsh's defeat was visible in his own subdivision, Thornhill Estates where he is on the Board of Trustees. Two of his fellow five trustees had Tiffany signs in their yards and another didn't have either.

The fact that Walsh is a lawyer whose firm's website promotes him being a development lawyer listing shopping centers and NURSING HOMES as clients did not play well after the wide spread opposition in 2014 for a developer's request to rezone 8.8 acres of residential property for an assisted living facility in the ward.

Finally the Welby letter simply pissed people off, especially when Welby falsely accused Frautschi of being a Animal Rights Activist. The letter resulted in people calling her and asked if she was a member of PETA, when in fact she wrote a piece of legislation while her husband was stationed at a Naval Air Base in Mississippi, making it a felony to torture animals. This was to aid police in identifying sadistic individuals before assaults on children occurred.

WARD 3: The Old Wind Bag prevailed. **Fred Meyland-Smith**, who would much rather lecture residents than listen to them, also won with 59% of the vote, beating challenger **Mary Steward** 318-to-224. The Wheatfield subdivision located along Mason Road north of Clayton Road had been trying to remove Fred from office for four years, since he lectured them on the need to expand parking at Longview Park after residents claim they were told there would be no expansion and the park would remain passive in nature.



Steward had money behind her, David Steward, her father-in-law is one of the wealthiest people in St. Louis, plus a former Man of the Year and known for his charity, work with churches and Boy Scouts. All this was not enough to stop Alderman Gasbag from being reelected.

It is a shame too, because one of Steward's platforms was for term limits after 10 years in office. This would force the city to put fresh eyes on issues instead of allowing elected officials to become more and more entrenched.



Meyland-Smith could have won by one-vote and considered it a huge mandate from the people. It is scary to think what he will be like with a 94 vote win.

Steward lost votes by doing something that can at times be hard to avoid. Stay away from people who are lightning rods with a number of people. In other words stay away from people who other people don't like. In Ward 3 that includes:

- 1) ME
- 2) Mariette Palmer
- 3) Al Gerber
- 4) Steve Fons

I have been writing negatively about Fred ever since he tried to dismantle the first amendment by trying to introduce an Aldermanic Code of Ethics to stop other alderpersons from writing or saying something unpleasant against them.

This was directed at me and my then Alderman Newsletter. It did not go anywhere when city attorney Steve Garrett had to inform the Ivy League educated Meyland-Smith that his bill was blatantly unconstitutional.



King George III and Fred Meyland-Smith both had similar dislike for the first Amendment.

But while I wrote what a horses' ass and windbag Fred could be, I never endorsed Steward or had anything to do with her campaign.

Mariette Palmer: The town gadfly has far more people pissed at her than impressed with. The deer lover who has fought deer management takes a position if anyone disagrees with her on any issue they are no good. Over the years that has turned into a two way street. Palmers really doesn't like Meyland-Smith, over the lethal deer management among other things. However more than one Ward-3 voter told me that when they saw Palmer at a Steward greet and meet they decided to vote for Fred.



Al Gerber: Al sent mix messages to voters. He called me a jerk who couldn't get along with the aldermen. He was correct on this count, but then he lied to a number of residents claiming he was for deer management, but failed to tell them that his way of deer management was to give deer \$1,200 hysterectomies. He defeated me in 2010, but was turned out of office in 2012. He gained a reputation as being a kook and deer lover. He has been closely tied to Mariette Palmer. His presence at campaign events are not going to help. He was at several Mary Steward events and I believe he was working the polls.



Steve Fons: Steve Fons as alderman got so unpopular in Ward-3 that 76-year-old newcomer Gussie Crawford beat him in a landslide in 2012. Fons rarely thought things out. He wanted to give a city wide trash pick contract to Waste Management and force two black owned companied that had been serving the city since 1960 out of business.

Once when he was upset with me over my opposition to his position on trash, he sent me an e-mail questioning my mental health, he also copied a dozen other people. He sent the email on his employer's email system, a bank where Fons was a mortgage officer. Myself and several other people complained to the bank asking if it was their official position to have their employees make scandalous writings against elected officials over the bank's email. A few weeks later Fons was no longer working at the bank.

Fons is not even well liked on his own street. Fons does hold a grudge against Meyland-Smith as Fred help Gussie Crawford defeat him.



Steward didn't turn off voters at parties and greet and meets with Fons. She did it when they were about to vote. Fons was aggressively working the polls for Steward.

OUTLOOK: Last year Amy Anderson and Linda Rallo were elected as independent voices that might go against grain and introduce some creative legislation. That did not happen. Anderson became somewhat timid and Rallo seemed to join the "good old boy network."

Tiffany Frautschi doesn't appear to be headed in either of those directions. She has shown in past issues that she opposed which she eventually got defeated as a private citizen that she is issues oriented person and not interested in building new friendships on the board.

If Frautschi, Rallo and Anderson could get behind certain issues, write their own bills, things could get interesting. I think that Gussie Crawford in Ward 3 who has shown absolutely no wavering from the pack or independence since she was first elected three years ago, might join this trio on some issues as long as she doesn't have to take the lead.

That could create an assuming situation. It could force Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton to have to vote to break ties. Dalton hates having to do this, because it will make someone mad.

WEST COUNTY EMS AND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT: The property tax increase on the ballot did not affect most of Town and Country as the city has a contract with WCEMSFPD (although 2/3s of Mason Valley is actually in the Fire District). However, this will likely be used as an excuse to raise the contract costs when it is up for renewal. The property tax increase passed 1,517-to-1,364 in the District that covers Manchester and sections of unincorporated St. Louis County. A resident in the Fire District did a breakdown of how this new tax will affect someone owning a \$300,000 home.

I looked on my real estate tax bill and noticed West County Fire-EMS is receiving 12.48% of the tax bill. If Proposition F should pass we would experience a 31.5% increase of the current rate for Fire/EMS or 16.41% of the tax bill.

On a \$300,000 house the current tax bill would be \$548. The ad for Prop F claims the measure would only add \$85.50 to a \$150,000 house (find a house in StL County for \$150K).

Here is an example for a \$300,000 house:

3.93 + 12.48 =

Current tax for Fire/EMS 548.00

Prop F increase 2X85.50 = 171.00

Total new tax **719.00**

The good news for Town and Country residents is that with pro-taxpayer and anti-fire union candidate Robin Harris being reelected to the Board of Directors of the Monarch Fire Protection District, Monarch might actively bid on the Town and Country Fire and EMS Contract. That would be the first time WCEMSFPD ever had competition on a bid for fire service and EMS to Town and Country.

CHESTERFIELD: There was only one city council race. It was in Ward-1 and it had incumbent and former mayor Nancy Greenwood running against Harvey Rosenberg and Jim Brown. Greenwood had plenty of signs from former elections and did not spend much money. Her opponents spent less. Greenwood cruised to an easy victory with 72% of the vote. **MONARCH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:** I don't know what pissed me off more, the Monarch firefighters' union hiding behind Political Action Committees sending out false and misleading mailers or the fact that they wasted \$47,000 in a smear campaign. Their efforts didn't work.



Monarch Board President Robin Harris was reelected with 63% of the vote, 3,246 to 1,890.

This was after an awful smear campaign by the firefighters associated with Local 2665 that continued up to 10 hours before the polls opened. An unaccredited flier claiming there would be an exposé about Harris using taxpayer money to fund his campaign would be on "You Paid For It" with Elliot Davis at 9 o'clock. There was not such a report. Harris had received plenty of money, mostly from current and former Republican office holders,

The only campaign material that went out that did not ridicule or smear someone was from the Harris side. Besides fliers there was a letter from the retired Fire Chief Chip Biele and Chesterfield Mayor Bob Nation. Even a flier by the pro-Monarch Board group Monarch Concerned Taxpayers made fun of Kelley Miller with a report card style giving Harris all A's and Miller D's and F's.

We have more of the firefighter smear campaign in the "Chesterfield" portion of this newsletter.

OUR DAY AT THE POLLS: We drove to a number of polls in Town and Country and in Chesterfield on Election Day. The turnout for the two contested races in Town and Country seemed in slightly better than usual for contested elections. In Chesterfield the turnout seemed light through 2 o'clock.

The polls in Town and Country seemed to be busy mid-day compared to the ones in Chesterfield. Tiffany Frautschi and two volunteers were at the Good Shepherd Church on Mason Road. Her opponent Tim Walsh was also there in a suit. Also present was Mary Steward and a volunteer for Fred Meyland-Smith.



The crowd at Good Shepherd. Mary Steward is obstructed by Tiffany Frautschi.

Before 3pm there had been over 200 voters at Good Shepherd Church on Mason Road. The same was not true in Chesterfield. Between 1:30 and 2 o'clock four major Ward-1 Polls in Chesterfield had not cracked the 100 mark in voters.

Oddest Campaign Sign of the Year: We thought Mary Steward's first signs in Town and Country were the worst we had seen. You could not read her name. She reprinted signs that had her name in white that were much better. But that one is nothing compared to Harvey Rosenberg's campaign signs. They are the only political signs I have ever seen that are one-sided. Plus you can read them at a distance of 30 feet or as you drive by.



With all the green in his sign & handout I have to wonder if Harvey Rosenberg isn't Irish.

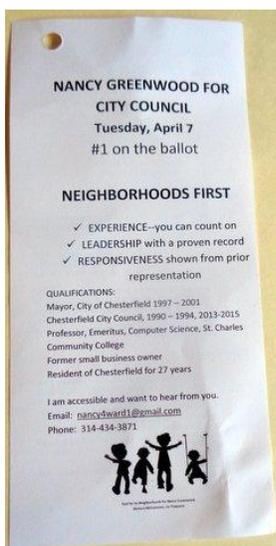
One of Rosenberg's biggest planks in his platform was to get young people more involved in local government. That is a tough thing to do. People 20-to-30 often put their social life way ahead of local politics. From 30-50 many are focused on their children and have no time for local politics.

In our trip around the polls we found only 78-year-old Rosenberg and his wife greeting voters. There was no hint of any young people.

STILL NO SIGN OF JIM BROWN: We spotted a sign for Jim Brown, Paid for by Jim Brown, but no actual sighting of Brown. So we still have to wonder if the Cleveland Brown great didn't move to Chesterfield.



NANCY SQUEEZES NICKELS ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL TOO: Councilwoman Nancy Greenwood known often for her lone "no" vote on proposals that she considers a waste of money was not wasting any on campaign handouts. Her material was the only stuff I have seen printed in black and white.



BRIDGET SPENDING MONEY FOR NO REASON: Unless she has always wanted to see her name on a sign it was hard to figure out why Bridget Nations (wife of former pro-developer Mayor Jon Nations) spent money on campaign yard signs. She was running unopposed. I'm not sure if this sends a strong message to the public about her not being frugal.



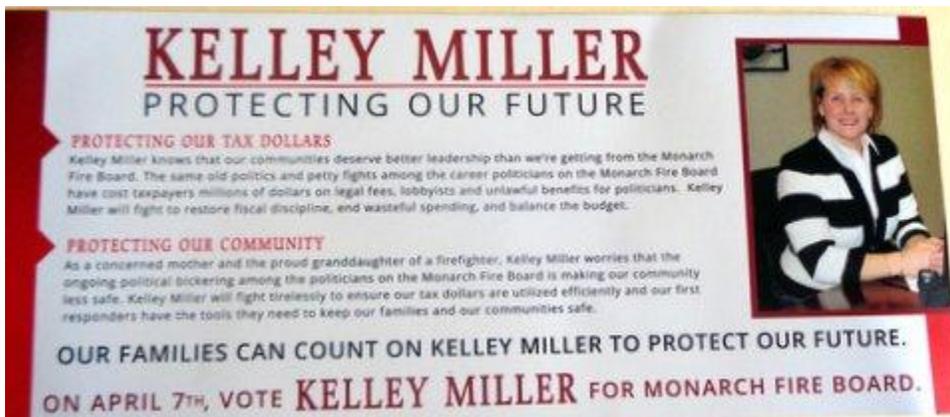
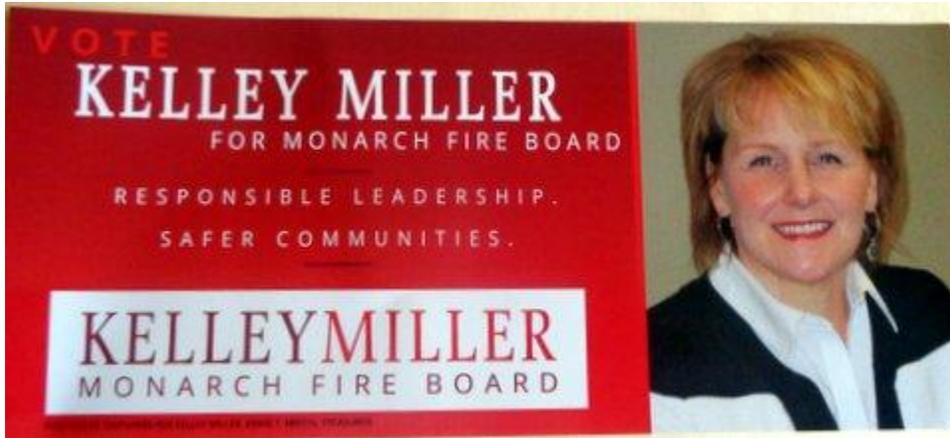
THE MONARCH CAMPAIGN: In our views at a few polling places we found somber faced firefighters handing out Kelley Miller material. At the four polls we checked the Robin Harris volunteers were animated and lively. It was as if they wanted to be there where some of the Miller people did not appear to be enjoying themselves.



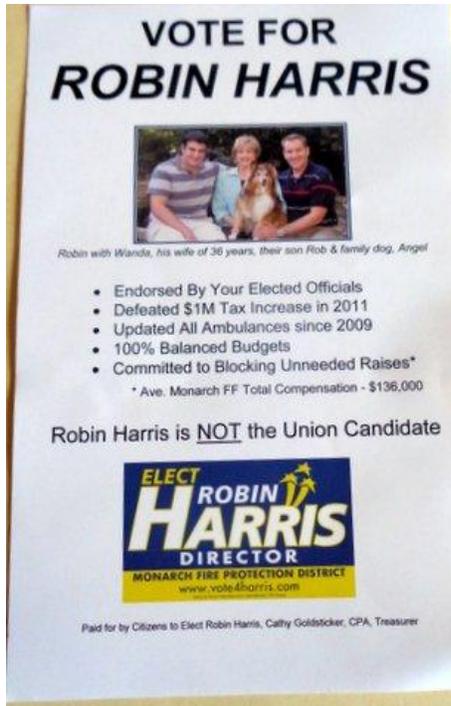
At Parkway Central High School we found recently fired Sean Porter handing out material for Kelley Miller. Porter had been a 35-year veteran with the fire District and was fired in December of 2014. The vote to fire him was 2-1. The Board of Directors gave no reason for the firing. However in dispositions in a lawsuit against the District Porter admitted having a sexual relationship with then Monarch Board President Kim Evans, who voted for his promotion to Battalion Chief.

I watched as one woman voter lectured Porter on how all the negative campaign material mailed out against Robin Harris helped her make up her mind to vote for him. When she finished Porter replied, "Thanks for voting today."

THE BIG DIFFERENCE IN TWO HANDOUTS: When looking at the handouts for Kelly Miller and incumbent Robin Harris, two things immediately popped off the paper. Harris was not connected with the union and Miller's didn't make any sense.



I'm not sure how a fire district director is going to "Protect our Future" as Miller claimed she would do if elected. The fire district has five fully staff fire stations with fire trucks and ambulances, plus a special rescue truck, all manned by highly trained individuals. For the life of me I cannot figure out how Miller was going to give citizens a "safer community" or protect anyone's future.



Harris underlined that he is NOT the Union Candidate.

SCARIEST ELECTION POLLING PLACE IN CHESTERFIELD: It has to be the Parkway Central High School. Not only do you not have specific parking spaces for voters, those voting on the way to work or at the 2-to-3 hour get to deal with new 16 and 17 year-old drivers plus an Army of school buses coming and going.

TOWN SQUARE TASK FORCE UPDATE: The Town Square Task Force charged with coming up with ideas of what to do with the 8.8 acres, including 1 acre of commercial property of the Wirth Property on Clayton Road, had an interesting meeting on March 31.



DO WE HAVE TO GO? Task Force Chairman Skip Mange told members there would be public hearings to get ideas from the public in the evening on Thursday April 28 and on Saturday morning May 2. You might believe what happened next.

"Do we have to attend," asked one member.

"Do you want us all there." asked another.

"I can do or the other but not both," said member Nan Kulkarni, which of course translates into "I can attend both, but I'm not going to do."

What did these people think being on Task force that would hold public hearings meant?

To make matters worse Skip Mange said the following:

"It's not important that everyone be there!"

I think this proved that the Task Force might be more show than substance.

Skip then tried to suggest the way to hold a public hearing. He wanted to have a number of tables with a several task force members at each table and the public could walk from table to table and discuss ideas. Of course there was the traditional way of having a setting with the members on a dais and each member of the public having three minutes to present their idea. Everyone seemed to like the traditional way.

To Dream the Impossible Dream: Mange told his task force members that the city (with a deficit budget currently at \$1.2-million) will send out postcards to every home in the city to turn out to one of the public hearings. Skip said he had a goal for overall 20-percent of the city population to show "we will have done pretty well."

Keep in mind an average of around 22-percent of voters show up to municipal elections. They have 13 hours to show up. Skip's public hearings are 2.5-hours each for a total of 5-hours. Skip would need over 2,000 to show up for the public hearings. There are not any rooms in the city that could handle more than a 1,000 people, other than Maryville University. Skip loves to lay it on...even if "it" often isn't fact based.

To Dream the Impossible Dream Part II: Beth Nelson a younger mom who lives in the Thornhill subdivision said what would be perfect for the Wirth property would be a kid friendly restaurant, that was not a chain in a building that resembled quaint New

England business structure. She added that Red Robin on Manchester was always so crowded the area needed another place to take your kids.

Mange immediately proclaimed, "You like the 15th person to suggest exactly that!"



Beth's dream to have a New England streetscape on Clayton Road is great. I had to point out to her once a city zones for something it can't keep chains out.

I also mentioned to her if she got an independent local owner of a kid's friendly restaurant, if it closed it could easily be an Applebee's. She blindly said, "That could never happen there is too much of a demand. I pointed out that divorce, death, bankruptcy could all shut a place down and open the location to a chain and the city would only have control over signs.

At the last Town Square task force meeting, a male member said what the area really needed was somewhere he could go and have a beer and watch "the game." We all know that sometimes "The Game" will go until after 11 o'clock. Can he bring the kids with him?

One member at the meeting showed photos of Ellis Square in Savannah, GA and Sundance Square in Ft. Worth and they mentioned that he foresaw fountains and people eating ice cream cones.



Sundance Square in Ft. Worth



Ellis Square in Savannah

E-I-E-I-O: Dirk Maas the Green Team ultimate Greenie was there and spoke, pushing for a Farmer's Market on the Wirth Property. Now this idea for use of the front commercially zoned section of the property would squash some people's dream of their perfect restaurant.

Maas was told that the St. Louis County Health Department would have to have certain standards met. Farmers could not just show up and start selling stuff.



HIDDEN ELEPHANT: Dirk never got around addressing the problem if a farmers' market is successful. Where do you park all the customer's cars plus all the farmer's trucks?



Here is the traffic jam at Soularo's Market before the turn of the 20th century.



Look behind the watermelon truck! What do you see? Cars and lots of them!

RIGHT THIS WAY MR. FIRST NIGHTER! Dirk was not done yet. After the farmer's market pitch he mentioned how popular and how much fun the outdoor movies are on Art Hill by the St. Louis Art Museum. We should consider having several outdoor movies at the Wirth Property. "You could have food trucks and come for dinner and a movie," said Maas.



Would you get this kind of a crowd or this kind of crowd or this kind of crowd?

The residents from two nearby subdivisions did not seem too impressed with this idea.

Ward-1 resident and well known realtor Carla Borgard was at the meeting and immediately stated how popular the outdoor movies were at Town and Country Crossing Shopping Center, making the point that perhaps the Wirth property would be a bit too small for such an endeavor.

Dirk is good at coming up with ideas and bad for thinking through ideas.

THE CITY HALL MOVING TO THE NORTH SIDE OF CLAYTON ROAD AT MASON COMES UP AGAIN: A woman from Kings Glen Drive located behind the Wirth property brought up Skip Mange's power point show at a neighborhood meeting. It was the second consecutive meeting the question was raised.

At the prior meeting another homeowner from Kings Glen asked what about the power-point presentation Mange used while talking about a possibly purchase of 17-acres of land from The Principia from behind the city firehouse to the middle of the Wheatfield Farm subdivision. Mange replied that they no longer using those photos and then changed the subject. He did not address that he had told residents that the city was in informal negotiations with Principia to buy 17 acres for a new city hall.

At the March 31 meeting the woman asked about the city hall land purchase Mange had discussed at the neighborhood meeting. "We are here to talk about what to do with the Wirth property," exclaimed Mange, changing subjects again.

This caused me to raise my hand and eventually Skip was stuck calling on me. I pointed out for two straight meetings people from Kings Glen has asked about his talk to their group and in fairness to the Task Force perhaps he should talk about a possible purchase of land from Principia.

This forced Mange, currently an employee of Principia, to admit that 30 acres of land on the west side of the Principia property is in a holding agreement with Town and Country. Meaning if Principia decided to sell the property the City would have first right of refusal.

Mange further admitted there had been some discussion about 17 acres of the 30-acres recently.

THE BUILDERS THREE: Three area builders and contractors were at the meeting. They sat together. While two of them were residents, someone called them out and wanted them to say where they lived. Of course taxpayers of Town and Country are different than residents, since there is no local city property tax but there is a sales tax, anyone who shops or eats in Town and Country are taxpayers



WE TOLD YOU SO! WESTMINSTER IS TRYING TO SELL FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL IS THE CHRISTIAN WAY TO PLAY! We knew that Westminster Christian Academy wasn't going to wait long after the local elections before trying to add lights to their football field. They didn't! They sent out invitations for residents of specific subdivisions to attend a meeting on Wednesday April 8, the day after the municipal elections concerning upgrades to their Athletic Program. Keep in mind the subdivisions and retirement center/nursing home were there before the football field.





Westminster was pretty sure of itself as it did not use words such as "proposed" or "planned" or "tentative" upgrades. They wrote as if it was already a done deal.

At the meeting residents were told Westminster would be attempting to get lights for the football field and a permanent PA system. I was an Alderman when they first asked for the PA system. A traditional football stadium would have the speakers on the roof of the press box and the sound coming from behind the spectators. That sound would also be headed toward the Arlington Oaks subdivision. If they would place speakers across the field facing school and stands it would not be in the direction of the subdivision. Of course it would then have some impact on Delmar Gardens retirement and assisted living center near the football field.



I would anticipate you will be seeing a lot of these signs again, last seen all over the area in 2008.

Here is one attendee's report on the meeting:

It was more of the same.

They had their consultants for sound and lighting.

They only took one question from the audience.

They talk like it's a done deal.

When not if.

The new head of school is not as good as the old one.

Fred and Gussie were both in attendance.

None of the citizens that I'm aware of were in favor of anything other than the tennis building.

They spun everything to their advantage.

Westminster wants to add a pavilion next to the tennis courts. I don't think anyone has a problem with this. They want a permanent PA sound system. Here is the problem under their plans; instead of having speakers across the field facing the stands, they want them on top of the press box and at both corners of the stands. The nearby subdivisions are bombarded with noise during football games.

JUST LIKE CBC: This is from the handout residents were given: *"Westminster will request to utilize stadium lighting no more than 28 nights per year in the C.U.P. (conditional use permit) request. This is the same number of nights that the city granted in the C.U.P. issued to Christian Brothers College High School. Westminster fully intends and commits to abide by this restricted number of nights."*

Of course Westminster is not like CBC. CBC is CATHOLIC! Seriously the big difference is that CBC is not next to any subdivisions. Westminster is next to three subdivisions and a retirement center.

BULLSHIT METER IS PEGGED: Here are the nine reasons Westminster claims that Town and Country has hurt them by not allowing stadium lighting:

1) **Creates obstacles for player safety issues when dealing with heat.** (Bull shit! They practice after school in the heat and practices start in August at 3:30 every day. That is the hottest time of the day. If safety issues are a real concern discontinue the football program and keep students from getting long lasting head injuries.)

2) **Creates obstacles to facilitate quality practice times.** (Bullshit again. It is light until 8 o'clock in August and 7:30 in September.)

3) **Creates obstacles for scheduling work-around with opponents who desire night games.**

4) **Creates obstacles for appeal of the program for families and students seeking a school offering high-profile athletic experiences.** (Westminster has always been known as a top-notch baseball school and never had a reputation for football. If families want their sons to risk head injuries and concussions that will hurt their academic work, why not just have the kid go to a public school? You can use the tuition money for medical bills.)

5) **Creates obstacles for collegiate recruiting.** (Bullshit! I covered high school and college sports as a sportswriter. Assistant coaches who do scouting and recruiting are not expected to be at the college game on Saturdays. A Saturday game might make it harder for a head coach to show up and seal the deal for a star player, but head coaches don't recruit. No lights It makes it easier for the assistant coach to see the player because there are fewer games on Saturday. Also with so many college games now being televised on Thursday and Friday nights this argument is moot.)

6) **Creates obstacles for college visits.** (In the 60's and 70's when most high schools did not have lights and played football on Saturday college visits still happened. Of course you could have Friday afternoon games between 4 and 7 o'clock while it is still light.

7) **Creates obstacles for family work schedules.** (Huh?)

8) **Creates an image of non-elite program in comparison to other schools.** (Country Day School does not have lights and plays football on Saturday. I don't know how much more elite you can get than Country Day Prep School in Ladue.)

9) **Creates obstacles for the school's desire to create meaningful safe and fun events for students and families.** (Again if the school was really concerned about "safe events" it would discontinue the football program.

PREDICTION: This will be before the Town and Country Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday May 20. Westminster will attempt to pack the room with supporters. Their presentation will be at least 45 minutes on what a great school Westminster is.

The P&Z Commission would be smart to stop this type of presentation in its tracks. It is clear that Westminster will be trying to wear the opponents down.

The P&Z Commission needs to have them stick to lights, sound system and the tennis pavilion otherwise everyone will be there until 11 o'clock.

If the P&Z Commission turns it down it can still go to the Board of Aldermen where there would have to be a super majority of six votes to pass it.

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 118



April 12, 2015

THE REMAINS OF CHESTERFIELD PATCH.COM SITE WERE TAKEN OVER BY ANONYMOUS POSTER WITH MONARCH FIREFIGHTERS ATTACKING ROBIN HARRIS AND JANE CUNNINGHAM. I was avoiding getting started on the newsletter on Saturday April 4 so for the first time in a couple of months I clicked on the link to the former chesterfieldpatch.com news site, which is now a self-posting site. Normally the site just has press releases from Rep. Sue Allen and ads hidden under the guise of a press release for local restaurants and businesses. There is really no reason for anyone to go to this site seeking news. .

However what I found were several posts disguised as news articles that were really attacks on Jane Cunningham and Robin Harris. Here is an example:



APRIL 1, 2015, Chesterfield, Missouri...A police report was filed against Chesterfield resident Larry Hoffman after he blocked roadway access, yelled profanities and interfered with emergency operations as Monarch firefighters and paramedics extinguished a fire at 15133 Still House Creek Road in Chesterfield at about 4:15 pm on Tuesday March 31, 2015.

Hoffman is a vocal supporter of incumbent Monarch Fire Protection District Board President Robin Harris, who is running for re-election in the April 7 election.

Five fire trucks, a rescue truck, two EMS ambulances and a fire marshal from the Monarch Fire Protection District, plus Chesterfield police, were on the scene when Hoffman, who lives nearby, blocked Still House Creek Road with his pickup truck, approached firefighters and began yelling profanities and insults, eyewitnesses said.

Hoffman began to videotape the scene and continue to shout insults at firefighters who successfully extinguished the house fire. Chesterfield police intervened and told Hoffman to move his truck and leave so firefighters could finish their work and safely exit the neighborhood.

“It was totally inappropriate to interfere with emergency services and public safety at the scene of a fire – the firefighters filed a police report for interference immediately,” an eyewitness said. “Luckily, the firefighters extinguished the fire before Mr. Hoffman caused any further trouble. Thanks to the police order, they could get out of there without further incident or any accident.”

The report filed with the Chesterfield Police Department is number 15-1887.

Hoffman is a frequent critic of the Monarch firefighters union who has appeared at Monarch Fire Protection District board meetings to express support for Robin Harris and criticize the firefighters.

The alleged writer of the post is Jmayne. When you click on the name it does not identify or give any background on the poster. Instead it says for JMayne, "JMayne is a little shy and hasn't filled out their biography yet... Visit again soon."

LIES AND MORE LIES:

1) First of all the photo with the posting was not from the event but is a stock photo that Union PACS use and the local Monarch Firefighter Labor website uses all the time.

2) The response of five fire trucks, a rescue and ambulance was to a call of a house fire. This is a normal response. There was an energized wire in a wall and the fire was extinguished with a fire extinguisher.

3) Larry Hoffman (no relation) did not block fire trucks from responding but parked in a legal parking space that made it difficult for fire trucks to leave. He moved his vehicle as soon as a Chesterfield Police Officer asked him to. After returning to the fire station firefighter Maurice Rothermich called the police at 5:06pm to make a complaint about Larry Hoffman yelling obscenities at firefighters. A police officer who was at the scene of the fire call responded to the call at the fire station. In his report Officer Rupp reported he never heard threats or obscenity yelled at firefighters but did see Larry Hoffman recording the fire trucks on his phone. Here are two paragraphs from the police report:

I walked down the street and found the driver of the gold smaller size pickup who was later identified as Larry Hoffman. I asked Hoffman if he could move his vehicle to allow the firetrucks to exit to which he stated "Yes, right away officer" and quickly walked back to his truck and moved his vehicle.

We were never notified of Larry Hoffman making the statements to the firemen while we were on scene, however we did see him on scene taking video with his cell phone.

The Monarch fire Incident report made no mention of Hoffman. The call of a "house fire" did bring a large number of fire trucks. Here are the units that responded according to the incident report:

Units responding were:

Unit 2202 responded.

Unit 2206 responded.

Unit 2212 responded.

Unit 2216 responded.

Unit 2217 responded.

Unit 2232 responded.

Unit 2242 responded.

Unit 2247 responded.

Unit 2253 responded.

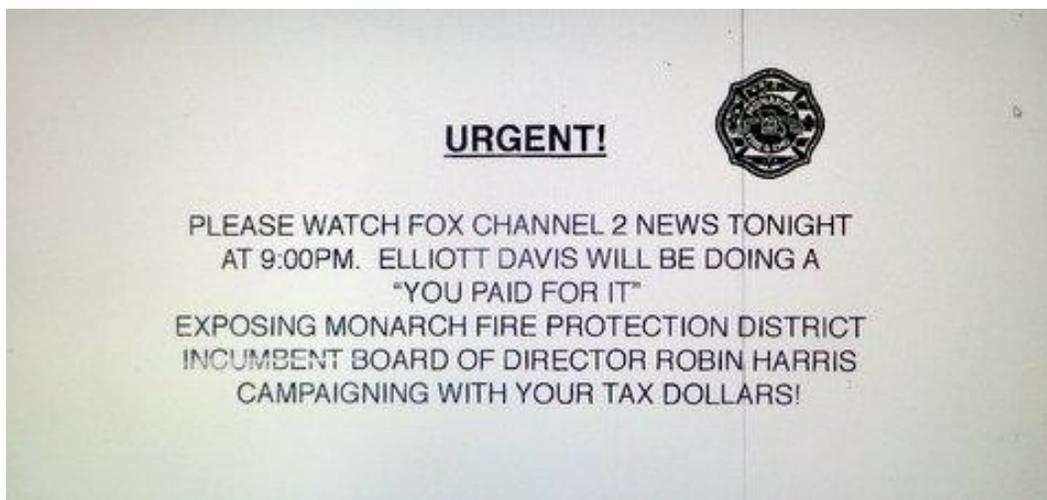
There was an electrical short hidden inside a wall. As a former fire and arson investigator I know this can be tricky for firefighters, These smoldering fires can extend inside a wall and when the the wall is opened up to investigate and extinguish the fire the additional oxygen can cause the fire to rapidly grow. In this case firefighters were able to simply use a fire extinguisher. Here is info from the fire report.

Upon further investigation into inside wall of stairwell hallway, this is inside master bedroom on division 2. Wall is open with hole in drywall approximately 1 foot tall with charring and smoke, melted outlet on the wall. Immediate overhaul and extinguishment utilizing pressurized water extinguisher.

Extinguishment by fire service personnel

This was not a major working fire as indicated by the fake article and the file photo.

LYING AND BREAKING THE LAW: The night before the election off-duty firefighters were seen going door to door with handouts for Kelley Miller and leaving this handout if no one was home:



The flier also has a Monarch PFD logo without permission. The campaign material failed to say who paid for it, a violations of Missouri Ethics laws. Finally it lied to residents. There was no Elliott Davis "You Paid For It" on TV that night examining the fire board and there was not going to be.

THE MONARCH MEETING: The Monarch Fire District held its regular meeting on Thursday April 9, two days after the election. Besides two elected officials and the staff there were only two people there. Me and just defeated Kelley Miller were the entire crowd. It was the third time Kelley had been to a meeting. .

Robin Harris had some interesting remarks during the President's Report on the election and the lack of cooperation with the firefighters' union. Here are some of them:

I am happy to note all Monarch trucks and ambulances are now Advanced Life Support capable; we have upgraded our EMS equipment and saves from cardiac events have improved nearly 40%; and response times have never been better. Unfortunately, the strife continues. The District is still spending hundreds of thousands of dollars defending itself from repeated legal actions, grievances, arbitrations and lawsuits generated by the union and its' members. The union makes accusations and the District must respond to set the record straight. People ask why this cycle seems to continue year after year.

I am here tonight to tell the men and women working at Monarch that the Board and staff would like to work together with them. The Board and staff are open to dialogue, but cannot abdicate their duties and responsibilities. Everyone throughout the chain of command must strive to fulfill the requirements of their own position but must also follow protocols and hold themselves and their subordinates accountable.

For some time, it seems the shop stewards haven't brought issues to the Command Staff or the Board. Their choice has been to issue press releases hoping to embarrass the Board. I am asking for that to end tonight. It is counterproductive and has caused some people to distrust our first responders.

The District, the Board, the Command Staff, the fire fighter/paramedics, the inspectors and the support staff are all here for one purpose. That single purpose is to provide service to our community. If you come to work at Monarch and your focus is not serving our residents by providing fire; rescue; EMS; and fire prevention protection you are in the wrong place.

If you have an issue that needs to be addressed, we have procedures in place that should be used. However, if you simply want to stir the pot, you should realize you are wasting valuable District resources as we spend money on attorneys and not on equipment, benefits or other essential items.

In addition, you are spending large amounts of your union dues enriching attorneys and not keeping the money in your own pocket to spend on yourself and your family. What has that achieved for you?

To all the employees at Monarch from the newest to the most senior, I say, the choice is yours. You can decide how we move forward. Are you here to fulfill the oath you took when you were sworn in? Will you do your best to return a fair day of work for a fair wage? If you want something else, the change needed to move Monarch forward will not be made.

I am asking all of Monarch's employees, the staff and my fellow Directors to go home tonight and ask themselves why they are here. If your goal is to be self-serving and exert as little effort as possible, you are in the wrong place. If you want to be part of a team that works together proudly protecting those who live, work or visit Monarch, I want to say thank you and let you know you are valued.

Missing: The pro-union board member Steve Swyers was missing again. Recent absences included a golf trip to California for golf when he did not check in on Skype. That was the meeting where Harris read the false mailers being sent out by a firefighter's Union PAC. He wanted Swyers to respond to them and Swyers was nowhere to be found.

With the reelection of Harris it should guarantee at least four years of a pro-taxpayer board, with Jane Cunningham and Harris being aligned. The next election will be in two years and it will be Swyers' seat.



REAL ESTATE: BACK ON THE MARKET WITH A PRICE

REDUCTION...12 Hunhtleigh Woods Drive in the Village of Huntleigh off of Lindbergh Blvd. is back on the market. This time for just for \$4,998,000. The house is owned by John and Deborah Capps. Taxes on the house and 2 acres in 2014 were \$40,439. That is a \$432 increase from 2013.

This is a mere 4-bedroom 9,614 square foot house with just four full and two half baths and a mere 3-car garage. It has just been listed since March 2, 2015.

We last wrote about this house in January of 2014 when it was on the market for \$5,800,000. So this is really a bargain having dropped \$802,000 in price. However you are still paying more than \$1,000,000 per bedroom and full bath.

Here is what we wrote in 2014:

If you ever wondered where the profits to the car dealer go if you bought a BMW at Plaza Motors...here is where.

The Capps have been in the house since 2002, but apparently don't own any cars...at least in their names. There was a Ford pickup truck registered there for three years in Capps name, but no cars. Also at one time in the last decade Capps had a Harley-Davidson motorcycle in his name, but again no cars.

But why own cars when you are a big time car dealer. Until he was forced out in 2012 as head of Plaza Motors, a company his father founded. Capps was clearly driving high-end dealer cars. We believe he is now a part owner in some of the Suntrup automobile dealerships. Although it has to be tough going from a BWM to a Kia.





and one from last year's Veiled Prophet Ball.

Two photos at a car dealership

RESTAURANT REVIEW: Charlie Gitto's: I was joined for lunch recently at Charlie Gitto's at the corner of Olive Blvd and Chesterfield Parkway (15525 Olive Blvd). Gitto's qualifies as a lunch only review in an effort to save money but still experience the food of the place. The number one restaurant on the "lunch only" list is of course Annie Gunn's.



By showing up at 1:00 on a Wednesday afternoon, the lunch crowd was starting to leave.

As is my custom to offer balanced taste tests of area restaurants for lunch I tried the roast beef sandwich. I normally shy away from the French Fries looking for a substitute item, but the waiter said the fries were "different" and worth trying. He was right.

The roast beef sandwich (\$11) was just right. It might have been three dollars overpriced, but the tender beef slightly seasoned was the correct portion. It was very satisfying but did not leave you stuffed. The fries were crispy and were not the ordinary fries you would expect with a sandwich.



As if all Italian restaurant I did the Olive Garden test and ordered a side of Fettuccine Alfredo and compared it to what is served at the Olive Garden.

The side of Fettuccine Alfredo was \$5. The portion was small, not like some that seem to be sponsored by the new cardiologists in the neighborhood. It was as good or better than what is sold at the Italian Gardens, but in a much smaller bowl, as a side.



My luncheon companion ordered the Linguini with Fresh clams (\$15). "I love these. They are my most favorite thing on the menu," she said.

While enjoying the meal and slurping down every last bit of clam, she did have one complaint. The noodles claiming to be Linguini, normally a thin round noodle, were Fettuccine noodles.



With all the pasta, desert was out of the question. Yes Charlie Gitto's was a little pricey. But what the heck, for lunch you should be able to treat yourself once in a while.

AND THEN THERE WAS THIS: In last week's newsletter I had photos of the sidewalks blocked at the Chesterfield Home Depot and Lowe's stores, plus the sidewalks really blocked at the Town and Country Home Depot.

At the time the Manchester Wal-Mart did not have its usual sidewalk blocking garden material. Well it does not, right next to the front door, so if you walk out of the store and go to the parking areas on the east side of the store you have to walk into traffic if people are entering the store. The photo I took shows a condition that will get much worse of the spring and summer continue. In this photo a woman stops to look at flowers that were partially blocking the sidewalk. Now the entire sidewalk is blocked.



THE DEATH OF A HERO: Election Day bought some bad news. Satirist and adman Stan Freberg died. Regular readers know that I featured Stan's Thanksgiving and political parody "Take an Indian To Lunch." At Christmas time we featured on the website, Freberg's comedy recording of "Green Christmas."



When I was a disc jockey at a radio station that gave us a lot of freedom of choice in playing music, I almost wore out the Freberg Album "Stan Freberg Presents the United States of America."

Freberg as an adman gave us the Contadina Tomato Paste jingle about putting eight tomatoes in that itty bitty can. But Freberg, the son of a Baptist minister, gave us two of the greatest TV commercials of the time and perhaps ever in the Jenos Pizza Roll commercial and the Heinz Great American Soup ad.

The Jenos Pizza Roll commercial made fun of Lark Cigarettes that were using the William Tell Overture in the background as people on a truck urged folks on the street to "show them their Larks." Freberg had no use for tobacco companies.



Here is a link to that commercial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5vHYpjaUko>

The Great American Soup was a Broadway musical extravaganza and reportedly the most expensive commercial ever made when it was filmed in 1971. It features Ann Miller. The soups were flop but Freberg's TV commercial lives on 44 years later.



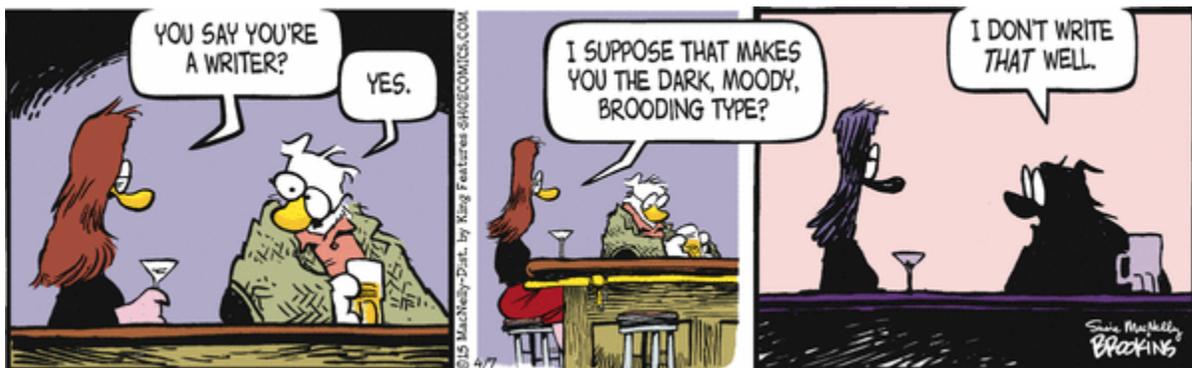
Here is a link to the ad.

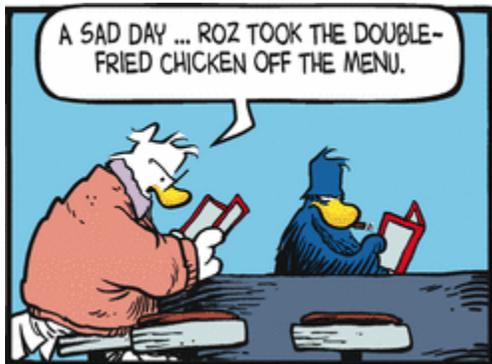
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CY2VAIIQaj4>

Here is a detailed obit on Freberg's death from the LA Times.

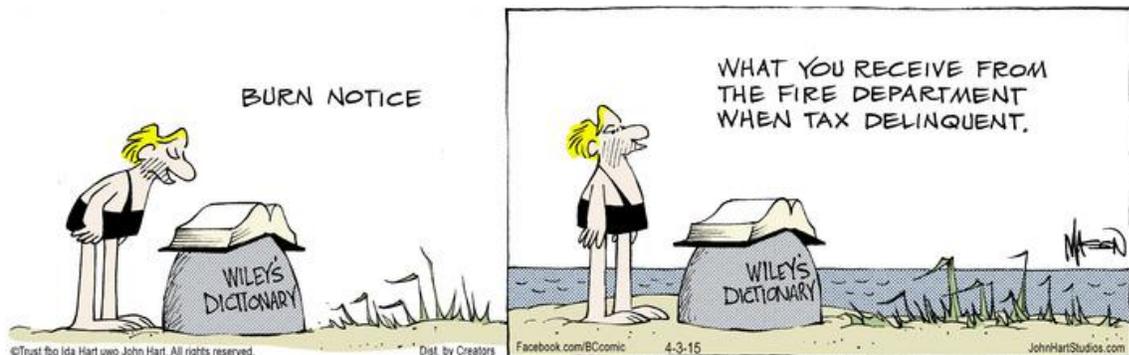
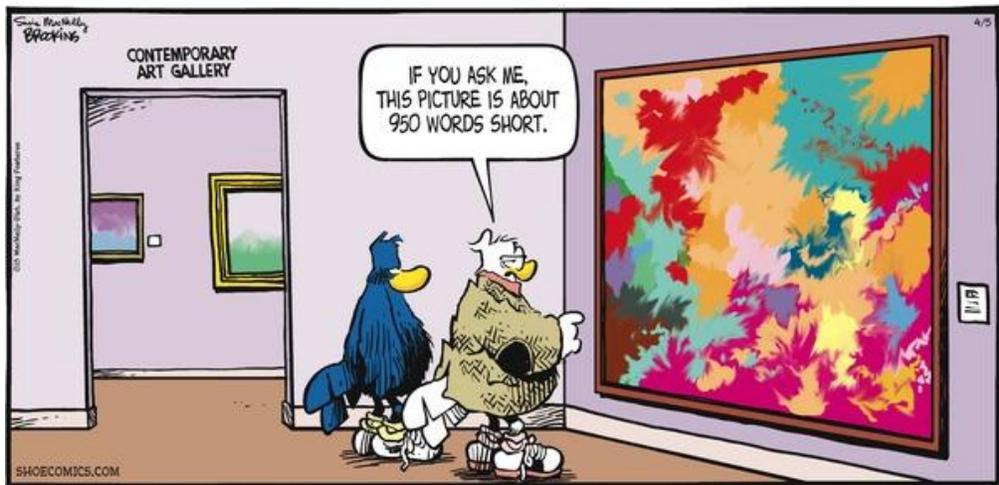
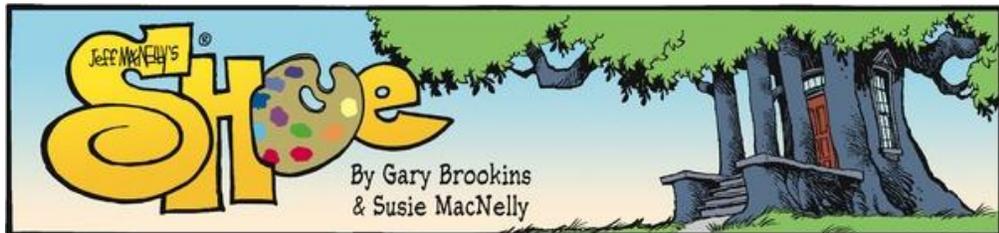
<http://www.latimes.com/local/obituaries/la-me-stan-freberg-20150407-story.html#page=1>

CARTOONS:





©2013 MacNelly-Part. by King Features-SHOECOMICS.COM



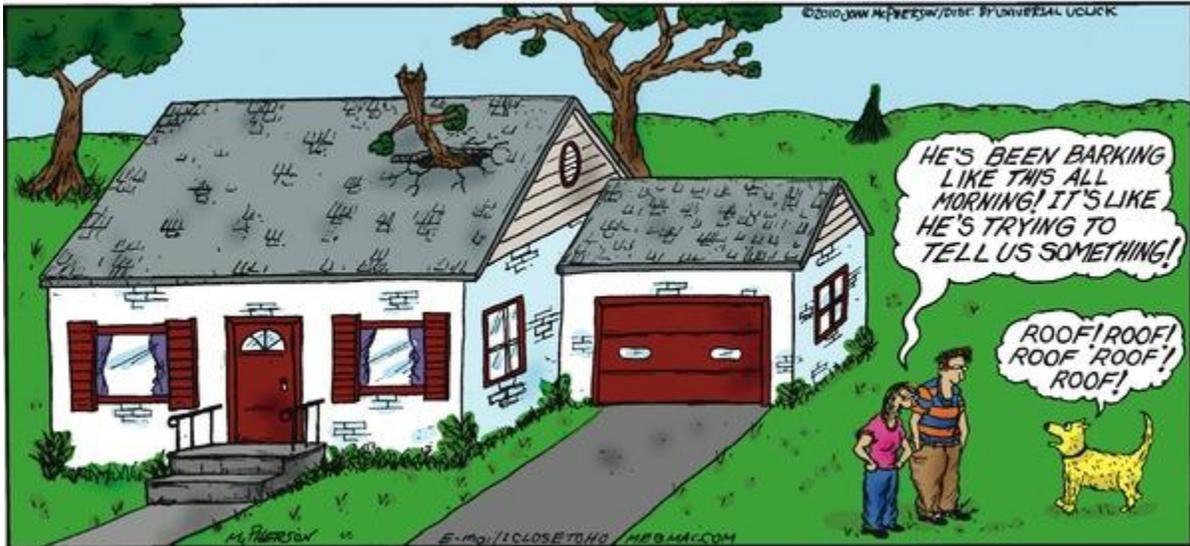
©Trust for Ida Hart and John Hart. All rights reserved. Dist. by Creators Facebook.com/BCcomic 4-3-15 JohnHartStudios.com



Raccoon restaurants.

CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN MCPHERSON







CATALINO
COPYRIGHT 2015
CREATORS.COM

IF YOU BECOME
PRESIDENT, WILL
I BECOME FIRST
GENTLEMAN?



FIRST PHILANDERER
OR FIRST HORN
DOG...YOUR CALL.

